

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C.-- Today, Congressman Sires cosponsored H.R. 683, the Urban Jobs Act of 2011, which was introduced by Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY). This bill would amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to increase job services to young adults.

“This legislation would allow young adults to benefit from successful urban jobs programs implemented by the National Urban League,” said Congressman Sires. “By providing young adults with opportunities to succeed, we can combat the high unemployment rate that is particularly felt in urban communities like the 13th district.”

This legislation would authorize the Secretary of Labor to make grants to the National Urban League so that urban jobs programs can be operated through local National Urban League affiliates. The Urban Jobs Program will provide education, job training, and support services for eligible young adults, ages 18 to 24, to prepare them to enter the workforce. Under the program, eligible young adults must either not be enrolled in secondary or post-secondary school, or they must have been subject to the criminal justice program. This bill would also direct the Secretary to establish a National Jobs Council Advisory Committee to create long term strategic priorities for the program. Lastly, this legislation urges National Urban League affiliates to establish local jobs council advisory committees to establish a local community support system.

“The National League’s affiliates throughout New Jersey have a proven track record of implementing successful education and job training programs,” said Sires. “This legislation will provide New Jerseyans an opportunity to further benefit from valuable opportunities provided by the National Urban League.”

“This bill provides critical funds for job training programs for our nation’s most vulnerable youth. At a time when the youth unemployment rate among African-American males is nearly 50%, we need to be investing in proven programs that can help our nation move forward. I applaud my colleague, Congressman Sires, for his work in supporting this critical issue facing our country,” said Congressman Towns.

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